

January 29, 1976

side previously on this issue?

SENATOR SIMPSON: It would make no difference. This is not a reconsideration.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Thank you. I apologize to Senator Lewis.

SENATOR SIMPSON: Right. Senator Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, we had a reasonably good bill at the time that Senator Bereuter offered his amendments. I think there was some solidarity of support for it. My amendment would simply take the bill back to where it was when the Committee voted it out and with the addition of the fine amendment that Senator Barnett put on the bill. It would not bother the Barnett amendment. It would simply put the bill back in reasonable form. I don't want to again run through the issues. I do think that you are going to get some information from some of your cities that Senator Bereuter said have not been heard from yet because I think that you will be hearing from several of them. In fact, I am going to do each of you a personal favor and I am going to contact a number of those cities as soon as I get off of this floor today and explain to them and ask them, officially, if it is their official position that they don't care if the State of Nebraska establishes the codes for them. A number of them are still smarting from what we did to them last time with the Board of Adjustments. Now if you think that was popular, I will share the heat that I got on that thing with you. My behind was so red by the time they finished with me I was running. This is the same kind of an attempt. Now nobody came to me on that issue either when I was told it was okay, and you are going to hear some of the same one here. Now the Committee put the bill out, and if you think that is a Labor Committee in Health and Welfare, I am not going to read any names and get in those kind of discussions but I think you will find out that that is not true. That is not a Omaha Committee. So I would think that you would want to go back to where the Committee had it. I don't want to be offensive to Senator Bereuter. I think Senator Bereuter, in all sincerity, thinks this will do something for the consumer. I think in all sincerity he thinks this will do something in terms of the dwellings in your city. But let me tell you, and let me tell you one more time very clearly, this has tremendous implications for you. Not only in the cost of housing, my friends, but this has tremendous implications, particularly in those cities where some of their decisions have to be economic, and I am sorry but that is the way it is. The urban cities of this state constantly fight the problem of providing massive services with no tax base and the members of this Legislature want to tell them this is how you are going to do it, this is the way you are going to do it, this is the matter you are going to do it, and then turn right around to them and say, local taxes are too high. I am telling you, this is not just the unions and the contractors standing outside as some tried to intimate to you. I am telling you that this is going to have some severe impact in terms of